

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

Declassification authority derived  
from FBI Automatic Declassification  
Guide, Issued May 24, 2007

Screened by NARA (RD-F) 11-26-2013  
FOIA = 59687 DocId: 34287022

TO : SAC JACKSON

DATE: 6-12-66

FROM : ALLEN W. SMITH

SUBJECT: UNSUB: BURNING OF HEADSTART SCHOOL IN BOLTON, MISS.

AT ABOUT 4:20 am THIS DATE 6-12-66 THIS OFFICE RECEIVED  
CALL FROM A MR. CHARLES HAMBERLIN OF THE HEAD STARTE PROGRAM OF  
MISS. HE GAVE IS ADDRESS AS 210 SOUTH LAMAR ST. ROOM 290, MILNER  
BUILDING IN JACKSON. HE STATED THAT THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT HEAD  
START SCHOOL WAS ON FIRE AND HE THOUGHT THAT IT WAS ARSON. HE STATED  
THAT THE SCHOOL STARTED BURNING AT ABOUT 3:45 AM THIS DATE IN BOLTON,  
MISS. EAST OF CLINTON, MISS. IT IS THE HEAD STARTE CENTER IN BOLTON, MISS.

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 12 1966	
FBI-JACKSON	

*BJS*

*Bu Team  
Adv. Sec.  
4:45 Am.  
Womack & McDaniel  
Not. Fied to scene.  
6-12-66  
AWs*

*157-6248-1*



Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE URGENT  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, JACKSON (157-New)

UNSUBS.; BURNING OF HEAD START SCHOOL, BOLTON, MISSISSIPPI,  
JUNE TWELVE, SIXTY SIX. RM.

CHARLES HAMBERLIN, JACKSON, MISS., ADVISED BUILDING BEING  
USED BY HEAD START PROGRAM AT BOLTON, MISSISSIPPI, BURNED INSTANT  
DATE. INVESTIGATION REFLECTS AN OLD ~~#####~~ BUILDING OWNED BY CITY  
OF BOLTON AND LEASED TO HEAD START PROGRAM OBSERVED ON FIRE AT  
ABOUT ~~##~~ THREE THIRTY AM THIS DATE. FIRST FIREMEN ON SCENE STATED  
FIRE STARTED IN SPACE BETWEEN FIRST AND SECOND FLOORS AND ABOVE  
KITCHEN. NO INDICATION OF ARSON. THREE FIRE DEPARTMENTS UNABLE  
TO EXTINGUISH FIRE AND BUILDING TOTAL LOSS. BUILDING UNOCCUPIED AT  
TIME AND NO INJURIES. NO EVIDENCE OF FLAMABLE MATERIALS AND NO ONE  
SEEN IN VICINITY.

FOR TRAINING OF PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN  
BUILDING USED ONLY AS SCHOOL BY HEAD START AND ~~####~~ ALL  
STUDENTS ARE MEMBERS OF NEGRO RACE. INSTRUCTOR AND COMMITTEEMAN  
ADVISE NO CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVITIES ENGAGED IN ~~SCHOOL BUILDING~~ NO THREATS  
RECEIVED, NO INDICATION OF ILL FEELING IN COMMUNITY.

UACB, NO FURTHER INVESTIGATION BEING CONDUCTED

LHM FOLLOWS.

Searched	_____
Serialized	_____
Indexed	_____
Filed	_____

NO THREATS  
SERIALIZED ☒ FILED ☒  
JUN 12 1966  
FBI - JACKSON  
LHM

RHM

Approved: *SA Butcher*

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

8:01 AM

M

Per

*AWS*

157-6248-2

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## Blaze Destroys Bolton School

BOLTON (AP) — The Negro elementary school building here was destroyed by fire early Sunday.

Hinds County sheriff's officers said there was no evidence of arson in the blaze at the old school.

"Head Start" program classes were being conducted in the building during the summer.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE SIXTEEN

THE CLARION-LEDGER

JACKSON, MISS.

Date: 6/13/66

Edition: HOME

Author:

Editor: T. M. HEDERMAN

Title: BURNING OF HEAD  
START SCHOOL -BOLTON,  
MISS.

Character:

or

Classification: 157-6248-3

Submitting Office: JACKSON

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED INDEXED

SERIALIZED FILED

JUN 13 1966

FBI - JACKSON

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)



## HEAD START CENTER BURNS

The Negro elementary school at Bolton, which served as Project Head Start headquarters, burned to the ground early Sunday morning. The building was completely destroyed, along with everything inside the structure. Hinds County Sheriff officers said they had discovered no evidence of arson.—Daily News Staff Photo by Charles Overby.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE TWO

JACKSON DAILY NEWS

JACKSON, MISS.

Date: 6/13/66

Edition: HOME

Author:

Editor: JAMES M. WARD

Title: BURNING OF HEAD START SCHOOL- BOLTON, MISS.

Character:

or

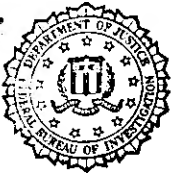
Classification: 157-6248-4

Submitting Office: JACKSON

☐ Being Investigated

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#7 1748



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Jackson, Mississippi

June 15, 1966

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

UNKNOWN SUBJECT; BURNING OF HEAD START  
SCHOOL, BOLTON, MISSISSIPPI  
JUNE 12, 1966  
RACIAL MATTERS

On June 12, 1966, Mr. Charles Hamberlin telephonically advised a representative of the Federal Bureau of Investigation that a building being used as a Head Start School at Bolton, Mississippi, had burned.

On June 12, 1966, agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation observed the smoking ruins of a building at Bolton, Mississippi, with firemen still attempting to extinguish the blaze.

Mr. Joshua Daniel, voluntary fireman of the Bolton, Mississippi, Fire Department, advised that he was the first person at the scene of this burning, arriving about 3:30 a.m., while the fire was still rather small and he noted that the fire was confined to the small space between the first and second floors above the kitchen and had not spread much until he broke windows in the building. He noted no indication that the fire had been set and felt that faulty wiring had probably been the cause, pointing out that the building was 26 years old, had the original wiring, and there would have been little or no way to get to the place where the fire started. The building was locked and showed no indication of having been broken into. No empty bottles, cans, etc., were noted and there was no odor of flammable materials. No one was seen in the area. It was the opinion of Daniel that the fire was accidental. Three fire departments fought the blaze but the building was a total loss.

157-6248-5  
*Mr. Daniel*  
Searched \_\_\_\_\_  
Serialized *h* \_\_\_\_\_  
Indexed *h* \_\_\_\_\_  
Filed *h* \_\_\_\_\_

UNKNOWN SUBJECT; BURNING OF HEAD START  
SCHOOL, BOLTON, MISSISSIPPI  
JUNE 12, 1966

Mr. Sterling Robinson, Bolton, Mississippi, advised on June 12, 1966, that he lived adjacent to the building which burned, that he had walked past the building and entered his residence at about 3:00 to 3:30 a.m., June 12, 1966, and had noted nothing out of the way and no cars or persons in the area.

Mr. Herman Jackson, Bolton, Mississippi, advised on June 12, 1966, that he is a Committeeman for the Head Start Program at Bolton, Mississippi. The building which had just burned was one used by the school in teaching pre-school children. The building is an old school building owned by the City of Bolton, Mississippi and leased to the Head Start Program. It is unoccupied except when school is in progress. No Civil Rights activities of any kind have taken place in the building and the school has been "running smoothly" without any type criticism to his knowledge. There is no objection or friction in the community concerning this school and no threats have been received of any kind.

Mr. Walter Vinson, Bolton, Mississippi, advised that he is a teacher at the Bolton Head Start School, and knows of no reason why anyone would burn the building. There are some 135 Negro children registered at the school and the only activity is teaching of pre-school children.

Investigation reflected no evidence of flammable materials being used and no odors were noted.

Local authorities at Bolton, Mississippi, and members of the Hinds County Sheriff's Office are aware of the burning of this building.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

June 15, 1966

Airtel

Airmail

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
FROM: SAC, JACKSON (157-6248) (C)  
SUBJECT: UNSUB; BURNING OF HEAD START SCHOOL,  
BOLTON, MISSISSIPPI, JUNE 12, 1966.  
RM

Remytel 6/12/66.

Enclosed for the Bureau are eight copies of LHM reflecting results of investigation concerning this matter. No further investigation contemplated.

3 - Bureau (Enc. 8)  
① - Jackson (157-6248)

RHM/pac  
(4) PAC

LHB

Close

157-6248-6

Mc Daniel

Searched \_\_\_\_\_  
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